



29 MAR 2017

On 23 February 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of applications for main benefits made by teenage mothers broken down by year from 2009 to 2016.*

Whilst the Ministry is able to provide you with the number of teen mothers who have been granted a main benefit, the Ministry is unable to advise you of the number of main benefit applications from teenaged females, with children, which have been declined, as this information is held in notes on individual client files. Ministry staff would need to review in excess of 44,000 client records that fall in scope of your request. As such your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial manual collation.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

The table below shows the number of main benefit applications granted for 16 to 19 year old females with children, for each year between 2009 and 2016.

Number of grants of main benefit for 16 to 19 year old females with children between 2009 and 2016

Calendar year	Client Age			Total
	16 years	17 years	18 to 19 years	
2009	325	636	3,421	4,382
2010	273	570	3,326	4,169
2011	241	478	2,914	3,633
2012	286	759	3,850	4,895
2013	194	294	4,379	4,867
2014	159	260	2,547	2,966
2015	161	209	2,347	2,717
2016	137	172	1,714	2,023

- **Notes:** Main Benefits exclude New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response to your request for information on the number of main benefit applications made by teenaged mothers with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery